

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

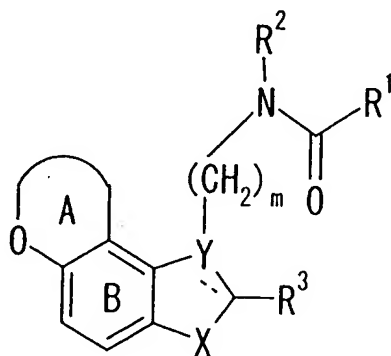
**1-6. (Cancelled)**

**7. (Previously presented)** A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno [5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide, lauric diethanolamide, and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols.

**8-19. (Cancelled)**

**20. (Previously presented)** A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising (S)-N-[2-(1,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2H-indeno[5,4-b]furan-8-yl)ethyl]acetamide, isopropyl myristate, polyethylene glycol and lauric diethanolamide.

**21. (Currently amended)** A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R<sup>1</sup> represents an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, ~~an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;~~

R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

R<sup>3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X represents CHR<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>4</sup>[[,]] or O ~~or S~~ in which R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

Y represents C[[,]] or CH ~~or N, provided that when X is CH<sub>2</sub>, Y is C or CH;~~

            
..... represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents an optionally substituted, 5- ~~to 7~~-membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

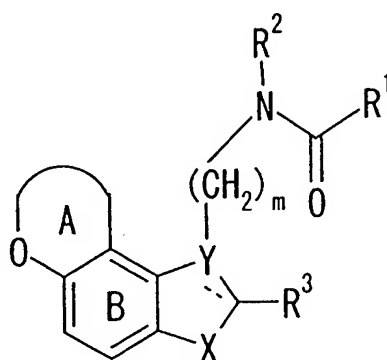
ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is a skin plaster or a skin patch which is applied and/or attached to the skin.

**22-32. (Cancelled)**

**33. (Currently amended)** A percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein,  $R^1$  represents an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, ~~an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;~~

$R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

$R^3$  represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X represents  $CHR^4$ ,  $NR^4$ [[,]] or O ~~or~~ S in which  $R^4$  represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

Y represents C[[,]] or CH ~~or~~ N, ~~provided that when X is  $CH_2$ , Y is C or CH;~~

..... represents a single bond or a double bond;

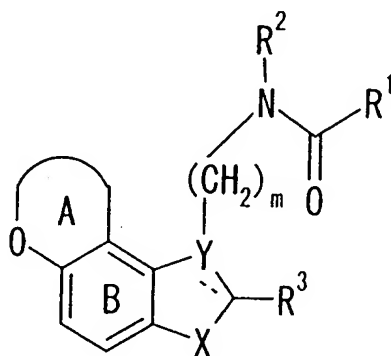
ring A represents an optionally substituted, 5- to 7-membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;  
or a salt thereof, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is contained in a skin contact member comprising silicon dioxide.

**34-38. (Cancelled)**

**39. (Currently amended)** A method of treating diseases related to melatonin, which comprises ~~administering~~ administering to a patient with a melatonin related disease a percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R<sup>1</sup> represents an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, ~~an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;~~

R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

R<sup>3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X represents  $\text{CHR}^4$ ,  $\text{NR}^4[[,]]$  ~~or O or S~~ in which  $\text{R}^4$  represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

Y represents  $\text{C}[[,]]$  ~~or CH or N~~, provided that when X is  $\text{CH}_2$ , Y is ~~C or CH~~;

~~.....~~ represents a single bond or a double bond;

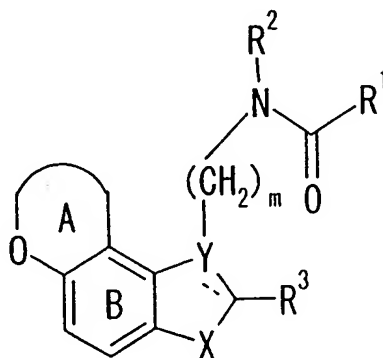
ring A represents an optionally substituted, 5- ~~to 7~~-membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof.

**40. (Currently amended)** A method for percutaneous absorption of a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, which comprises administering to a patient with a melatonin related disease a percutaneous absorption preparation comprising a compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity, lauric diethanolamide and optionally one or more members selected from fatty acid esters and polyhydric alcohols, wherein the compound having a melatonin receptor agonist activity is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein, R<sup>1</sup> represents an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, ~~an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;~~

R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

R<sup>3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X represents CHR<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>4</sup>[[,]] or O ~~or~~ S in which R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

Y represents C[[,]] or CH ~~or~~ N, ~~provided that when X is CH<sub>2</sub>, Y is C or CH;~~

          
..... represents a single bond or a double bond;

ring A represents an optionally substituted, 5- ~~to 7~~-membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4;

or a salt thereof.

**41. (Cancelled)**

**42. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 39, wherein the percutaneous absorption preparation is affixed between about 6 hours before bedtime to just before bedtime.

**43. (New)** The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 21, wherein X represents CHR<sup>4</sup> in which R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group.

44. (New) The percutaneous absorption preparation according to claim 33, wherein X represents  $\text{CHR}^4$  in which  $\text{R}^4$  represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group.

45. (New) The method of treating diseases related to melatonin according to claim 39, wherein X represents  $\text{CHR}^4$  in which  $\text{R}^4$  represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group.

46. (New) The method for percutaneous absorption of a compound according to claim 40, wherein X represents  $\text{CHR}^4$  in which  $\text{R}^4$  represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group.